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# FARM FAMILY LIVING IN SOUTHEASTERN SASKATCHEWAN

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# FARM FAMILY LIVING IN SOUTHEASTERN SASKATCHEWAN, 1947-48

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## INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of a survey of farm family living carried out in southeastern Saskatchewan in 1948 with the objectives of examining various aspects of farm family living and measuring the level of living attained by families in the area. It is expected that studies such as this will bring to both farm and urban families throughout Canada a better understanding of the way of life of farm families in specific areas. The information contained in such reports should also be of value to extension workers, social workers, community leaders and to other persons or organizations working with farm families. The Economics Division of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, therefore, has been carrying <sup>1/</sup> on a number of surveys of farm family living in various parts of Canada.

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- 1/ Edwards, F.M., Farm Family Living in the Prairie Provinces, Publication 787, Technical Bulletin 57, Economics Division, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Ontario, 1947.  
MacNaughton, M.A., and Andal, M.E., Changes in Farm Family Living in Three Areas of the Prairie Provinces, from 1942-43 to 1947, Publication 815, Technical Bulletin 69, Economics Division, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Ontario, 1949.  
Farm Family Living in Lanark County, Ontario, 1947-48, Economics Division Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Ontario, (to be published).  
Farm Family Living in Nicolet County, Quebec, 1947-48, Economics Division Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Ontario, (to be published).

## METHOD OF STUDY

In the summer of 1948, 75 farm families in the Carlyle-Moosomin area of southeastern Saskatchewan were visited and information was obtained from the housewives concerning various aspects of family living. The data pertain to the twelve-month period extending from June, 1947 to May, 1948. The enumerators recorded the answers to a great number of definite questions regarding the composition of the families, the expenditures for family living, the surroundings, structure and finish of the homes, the possession of numerous material or cultural acquisitions, the availability of community services, the use of spare time, the extent of participation in social organizations and the attitudes of the housewives toward farm life. The answers to these questions are summarized in this report.

The area in which the study was carried out included ten rural municipalities in the southeastern part of the province, adjacent to the Manitoba boundary on the east and the Qu'Appelle river on the north. The location of the area is indicated in Figure 1. This area lies within the black soil zone of the province. The topography is moderately level to undulating and poorly drained areas or sloughs fringed with aspen or willow often occur. Wheat growing is the major farm enterprise but on many farms it is supplemented by the production of livestock and livestock products.



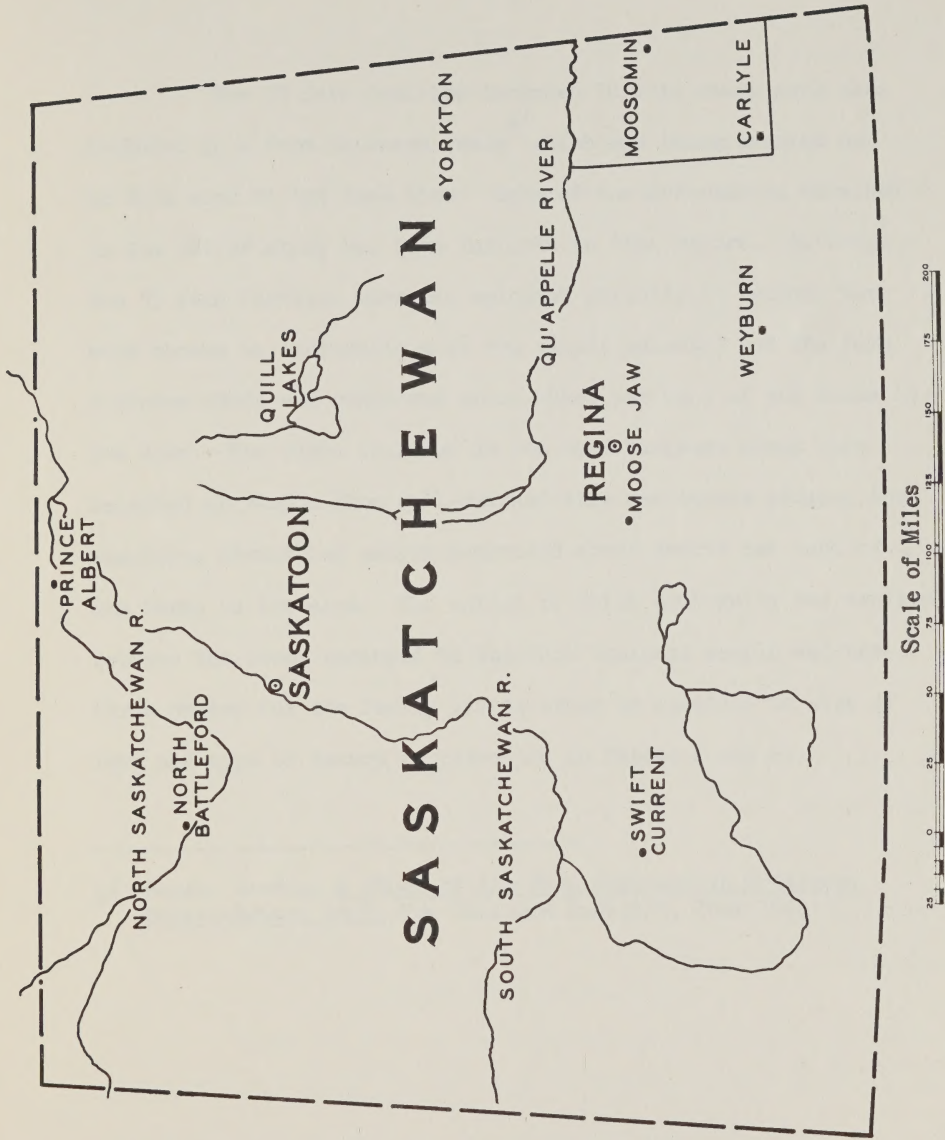


Figure 1. - Location of the Carlyle-Moosomin Study Area in the Province of Saskatchewan



The 75 farm families included in this study were also included in a farm business study <sup>1/</sup> which was being carried on in this area at the same time. Some of the information obtained in the latter study has been included in this report. Although the 75 farm families were not selected strictly at random; they were chosen in conformity with the sample selected for the farm business study and comprised about three per cent of the farms in the area. The farms included in the farm business study were selected at random from well-defined size and tenure groups; the resulting stratified sample comprised about twelve per cent of the farms in the area. The extent to which conformity was achieved between the farms included in the farm business sample and the farms chosen for the family living study in relation to size of farm and type of tenure is presented in Tables 1 and 2.

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1/ Haase, Gordon, A Study of the Farm Business in Southeast Saskatchewan, 1948, The Economic Annalist, June 1949.

Table 1.- Farms Included in Farm Business Study and Farms of Families Included in Family Living Study, Compared by Farm Size

Size of Farm	:	Farm Business Study	:	Family Living Study
acres	:	per cent	:	per cent
0 - 99		6.1		5.3
100 - 199		26.8		21.3
200 - 299		32.0		42.8
300 - 399		17.1		13.3
400 - 499		10.4		9.3
500 - 599		3.7		2.7
600 - 699		1.8		4.0
700 and over		2.1		1.3
Total		100		100

Table 2.- Comparison of the Tenure Status of the Farm Operators Included in Farm Business Study With the Tenure Status of the Families Included in Family Living Study

Tenure Status	:	Farm Business Study	:	Family Living Study
	:	per cent	:	per cent
Owners		66		69
Part owners		24		29
Tenants		10		2
Total		100		100



## DESCRIPTION OF THE FAMILIES

The average size of the 75 farm families included in the study was four persons, or two adults and two children per family. Only nine families were not supporting any children. The average age of the farm operators was 45 years. Very few were under 30 years of age; 75 per cent were between 30 and 59 years. Seventy-one per cent of the farm operators were of British origin. The remaining 29 per cent were mainly of Scandinavian, Polish, German, French or Dutch origin. Seventy-two per cent of the farm operators were born in Canada and of this group 63 per cent were born in Saskatchewan. A slightly higher proportion of the housewives were born in Saskatchewan but, generally, the racial origin of the housewives conformed to that of their husbands. Twenty-three per cent of the husbands had more than a grade eight education. The majority, 53 per cent, had completed only eight grades and 24 per cent had less than a grade eight education. The housewives had more formal education than their husbands, almost one-half of them, 48 per cent, having gone beyond grade eight; 27 per cent had completed eight grades, and 25 per cent, less than eight grades.

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURES

There are many different measures of farm family income. The measure used in this study is "net expendable income" which is the income remaining after current farm expenses and interest on debts have been deducted from total receipts. The residual income is available for cash living

expenditures, capital expenditures and debt repayments.

The total net expendable income of the 75 families averaged \$2,610 for the survey year. This income came from several sources. Farm income averaged \$1,844, or 70 per cent of the total. Income from participation certificates <sup>1/</sup> averaged \$392 per family and comprised 15 per cent of net expendable income. Family Allowance payments, which averaged \$108 per family, accounted for another four per cent. The remaining \$266, ten per cent of net expendable income, came from various other sources, mainly interest on bonds.

The cash living expenditures of the 75 families averaged \$1,500 for the survey year; capital expenditures averaged \$1,411; debt repayments averaged \$209. These expenditures totalled \$3,120 and exceeded the average net expendable income of \$2,610 by \$510. Savings or borrowed capital were used to make up this difference. The results of a similar study, carried out in 1947 in west central Alberta, west central and northern Saskatchewan, also show that the average expenditures exceeded the average net expendable income of farm families in those areas. However, it was found that, in the two Saskatchewan areas in 1942-43, the expenditures of farm families <sup>2/</sup> were less than net expendable income.

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1/ The farmers delivered their wheat to the Canadian Wheat Board and received an initial payment according to grade and quality. At the time of delivery, certificates were issued which entitled the farmers to participate in the proceeds of the sale of the wheat by the Wheat Board. In 1948 a payment of twenty cents per bushel was made on the participation certificates which had been issued during the years 1945, 1946 and 1947.

2/ MacNaughton and Andal, op. cit., p. 23.

## EXPENDITURES FOR FAMILY LIVING

The 75 housewives interviewed were asked to estimate the value of all goods and services used for family living during the survey year. Total living expenditures averaged \$2,277 per family. The distribution of these expenditures is presented in graphic form in Figure 2. The families in this area had higher total living expenditures, on the average, than the families visited in west central and northern Saskatchewan in 1947. In these two areas total living expenditures averaged \$1,887 and \$1,596 respectively.<sup>1/</sup>

Farm-Furnished Goods and Services.- Farm families are not so dependent on cash income as urban families because most farms provide some goods and services such as food, fuel and housing, which require very little cash outlay. It was estimated that average cash expenditures of the 75 families would have been increased by \$777 per family if these goods and services had not been available. These non-cash expenditures amounted to 33 per cent of total living expenditures. The remaining 67 per cent of the total living expenditures was covered by cash outlay. This information is summarized in Table 3.

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<sup>1/</sup> MacNaughton and Andal, op. cit., pp. 31-32.

Table 3.- Average Living Expenditure of 75 Farm Families, Classified by Type of Expenditure

Type of Expenditure	Average Expenditure per Family		Average Expenditure per Consumption Unit <sup>a/</sup>	
	dollars	per cent	dollars	per cent
Non-cash	777	33	235	34
Cash	1,500	67	453	66
Total	2,277	100	688	100

<sup>a/</sup> This unit is used to eliminate the variable of family size and composition in these calculations. The number of persons in each family is reduced to consumption units according to the following scale:

<u>Age of Family Member</u>	<u>Consumption Unit</u>
18 years and over	1.0
12 to 17 years	.75
6 to 11 years	.50
under 6 years	.30

The consumption weight of each family member was adjusted according to the number of months each person was fully supported by the farm income (vacations were included). A child born during the year was given full weight of 0.3, assuming that the main expenses for a child's first year are incurred at the time of birth. Anyone partially self-supporting who paid all his personal expenses was given only one-half of the consumption weight indicated for his age. Those who paid only part of their personal expenses were given three-quarters of the indicated weight.



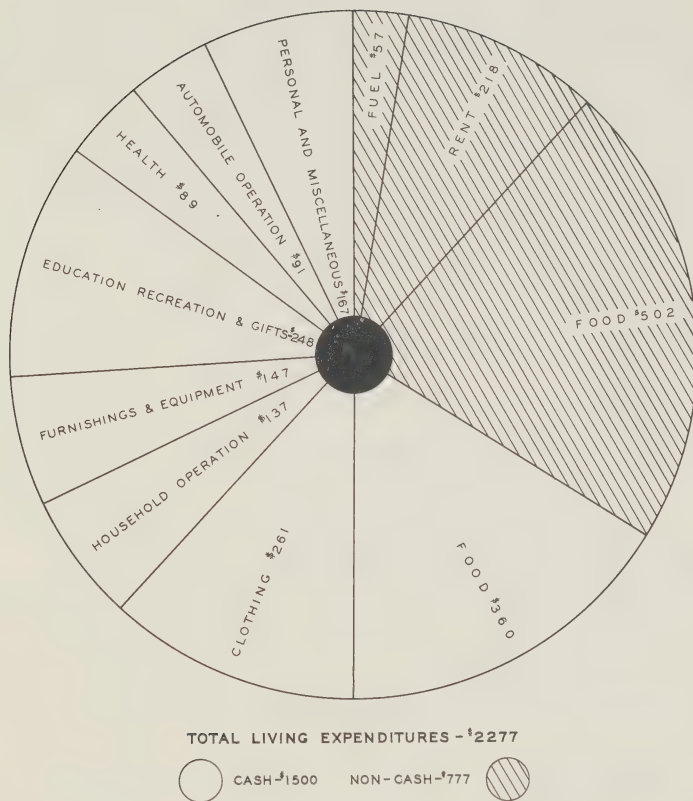


Figure 2. - Distribution of Total Living Expenditures



In terms of value, farm-produced food was the most important of all the goods and services provided by the farm. Fruit, vegetables, meat, dairy and poultry products, produced on the farm and consumed during the year, were valued at an average of \$502 per family. The total value of all food consumed averaged \$862 per family. Therefore, the value of farm-produced food accounted for 58 per cent of the value of all food consumed.

In this area, firewood for home use is available on many farms. Two-thirds of the value of all fuel used was furnished by the farms. The average value of this farm-furnished fuel was \$57 per family. Thirty-two per cent of the families visited had obtained all of their fuel from their farms and a further 36 per cent had obtained at least part of their fuel from this source.

The use of the farm house for the year was given an average value of \$218 per family.<sup>1/</sup> It was necessary to consider the rental value of the farm house because its use contributed to the value of family living even though a cash expenditure for rent was not required.

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<sup>1/</sup> The interviewer valued the farm house on the basis of cubic content and type of construction. The rates used were: brick and stone - 36 cents per cubic foot, good frame 30 cents, and poor frame - 24 cents. In order to arrive at present value the age of the dwelling was determined and depreciation was calculated according to the following rates: brick and stone - 1.5 per cent per year, good frame - 2.5 per cent, and poor frame - 3.5 per cent. The rental value of the home was considered to be equal to 15 per cent of its present value.

Food, Clothing and Household Operation.- Even though 58 per cent of the value of all food consumed was farm-produced, cash expenditures for food averaged \$360 per family and amounted to 24 per cent of the total cash outlay for family living. This was the largest cash expenditure. Clothing was the second largest cash expenditure, averaging \$261 per family, or 17 per cent of the total cash living expenditures.<sup>1/</sup> Household expenditures, including such items as light, telephone, purchased fuel, postage, domestic help, soaps and cleansers, averaged \$137 and accounted for another nine per cent. Therefore, cash expenditures for food, clothing and household operation amounted to 49 per cent of the average total cash living expenditures of the 75 families. The distribution of total cash living expenditures is given in Figure 3.

Equipment and Furnishings.- Every family purchased some household equipment and furnishings during the year. The average outlay, which ranked fourth in cash living expenditures, was \$147 per family. One-third of this was spent on household equipment such as stoves, sewing machines, and washing machines. Expenditures for furnishings and equipment amounted to ten per cent of total cash living expenses.

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<sup>1/</sup> Only one-half of the telephone expense was charged to family living; the remainder was considered to be a farm business expense.



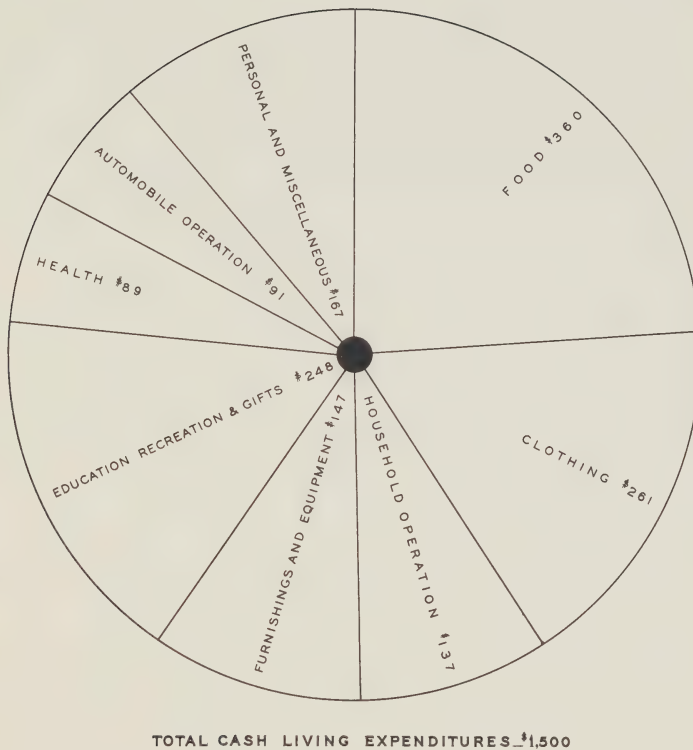


Figure 3. - Distribution of Total Cash Living Expenditures



Education, Recreation, and Gifts.-- Expenditures for recreation, education, and gifts, and donations to churches and charities averaged \$248 or 17 per cent of total cash living expenditures. Only 40 per cent of the families had taken a vacation during the year. The average expenditure for all recreation and social participation was \$111 while the average outlay for education was only \$42. Donations to churches and charities and expenditures for gifts averaged \$95 per family.

Health.-- All of the families visited were covered by the Provincial Hospital Services Plan. Compulsory payments or tax levies under this health insurance plan were five dollars per person per year with a maximum payment of thirty dollars per family. The average expenditure under this hospitalization plan was \$20.50 per family, but 44 per cent of the families had additional hospital and doctor bills. Fifty-five per cent had dental bills which averaged \$24 for these families. Twenty-seven per cent of the families had expenses in connection with eye examinations; for these families this expenditure averaged \$19. Almost every family had purchased some drugs or medicines. Total expenditures on family health averaged \$89<sup>1/</sup> or six per cent of the total cash living expenses.

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<sup>1/</sup> Premiums on health and accident insurance policies were included in health expenditures.

Automobile Operations.- Only one-half of the automobile operating expenses and one-quarter of the truck operating expenses were considered to be a part of family living expenditures.<sup>1/</sup> These expenses, which averaged \$91 per family, or six per cent of total cash outlay, were slightly higher than the average health expenses and more than twice as high as the average educational expenditures per family. All but 12 per cent of the families owned an automobile or a truck or both. Seventy-seven per cent owned an automobile, an additional eight per cent owned a truck and three per cent owned both an automobile and a truck.

Personal and Miscellaneous.- Expenditures for personal items such as toilet articles, refreshments and tobacco and for such services as haircuts and permanent waves averaged \$97 per family. Miscellaneous expenditures on life insurance premiums and annuities and for various other items averaged \$70 per family. Together these expenses totalled \$167 and accounted for 11 per cent of the total cash outlay for family living.

Expenditure Patterns.- The average expenditures for family living of the 75 families have been described above. In summary, it may be stated that of every dollar of cash expenditure, 24 cents

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<sup>1/</sup> The remaining automobile and truck operating expenses were considered to be farm business expenditures.



were spent on food, 17 cents on clothing, 9 cents on household operation, 10 cents on household equipment and furnishings, 17 cents on education, recreation and gifts (3 cents on education, 8 cents on recreation and 6 cents on gifts and donations to churches and charities), 6 cents on health and 6 cents on automobile operation; the remaining 11 cents were spent on personal and miscellaneous items.

When the value of the farm-furnished goods and services was considered, then, of every dollar of total expenditure, 38 cents were spent on food, 12 cents on clothing, 18 cents on household operation, 6 cents on home equipment and furnishings, 11 cents on education, recreation, and gifts, 4 cents on health and 4 cents on automobile operation; the remaining 7 cents were spent on personal and miscellaneous items.

It must be remembered, of course, that these are the average expenditures of the 75 families. When the individual families were considered, this expenditure pattern changed somewhat. As the total expenditures for family living increased from less than \$400 to more than \$900 per consumption unit, <sup>1/</sup> food expenditures decreased from 49 cents to 28 cents on the dollar expenditure basis. Expenditures for education and recreation increased slightly but the other expenditures remained relatively constant.

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1/ See footnote page 10.

## LEVEL OF LIVING

The level of living of farm families cannot be determined solely from a study of the relationships between their incomes and expenditures, particularly when this information is available for only one year. Moreover, the finding of similar levels of income and expenditure in different families does not necessarily mean that these families have similar levels of living. There may be important differences in the manner of spending family income owing to differences in the preferences of individual families which would result in very dissimilar levels of living. Economic conditions which prevailed in past years also have an important bearing on current living levels. Material or cultural possessions acquired in periods of prosperity are available to the family for many years and, even in periods of depression, contribute to a higher level of living since the socioeconomic status of families is judged by their friends and visitors not only in terms of their current incomes and expenditures but also in terms of their material or cultural acquisitions.

In order to measure the level of living of 622 farm families included in a previous study,<sup>1/</sup> a level of living scale was devised. The same scale has been used to measure the level of living of the families included in this study. In the construction of this scale

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<sup>1/</sup> MacNaughton and Andral, op. cit., p. 46.

an extensive inventory was taken of material and cultural acquisitions such as furnishings, equipment, musical instruments and books, which the families possessed. The inventory items were then tested in order to determine which ones differentiated between various living levels. Those items which were possessed by all of the families or by very few were eliminated because they did not serve this purpose. Twenty-seven items were selected statistically from this inventory to form the level of living scale.<sup>1/</sup> A family's level of living as measured by this scale was indicated by a score out of a possible total of 27.

The level of living scores of the 75 families included in this study averaged 17.8. The distribution of the families by level of living score is presented in Table 4. The average level of living of the families visited in this area as measured by the scale approximated the average level of living of 150 farm families in west central Alberta and 123 families in west central Saskatchewan but was higher than the average level of living of 143 farm families in northern Saskatchewan in 1947. The level of living scores of the families in these three areas averaged, 18.5, 17.5, and 11.2 respectively.<sup>2/</sup>

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<sup>1/</sup> The items included in the level of living scale are listed in the Appendix, p. 35.

<sup>2/</sup> MacNaughton and Andal, op. cit., p. 47.

Table 4.- Distribution of 75 Farm Families by  
Level of Living Score.

Level of Living Score	Families	
	number	per cent
0 - 4	1	1
5 - 9	1	1
10 - 14	15	20
15 - 19	30	40
20 - 27	28	38
Total	75	100

There was a significant relationship between family level of living and expenditure patterns. As the average level of living score of the 75 families increased from less than nine to more than 25, food expenditures decreased from 30 per cent to 22 per cent of cash living expenditures, or from 47 per cent to 35 per cent of total living expenditures. Education and recreation expenditures also changed significantly. These expenditures increased from two per cent to 13 per cent of cash living expenditures, or from four per cent to 20 per cent of total living expenditures.

#### FARM HOMES

The quality of the housing of the farm families in this area has been influenced by several factors. It is little more than 50 years since the first settlers moved into the area. Most of the early farm

homes were hurriedly constructed to meet an urgent need. As the families became established on their farms, many of these dwellings were replaced by more permanent structures; many of which exist today. For the most part, these homes are simple in design and construction and are lacking many facilities. During the economic depression of the 1930's, very little capital could be invested in housing, because it did not yield a tangible return. Only in recent years have these families been able to effect some of the much-needed repairs and improvements to their homes.

Only seven per cent of the homes of the 75 families visited were stuccoed or built of stone or brick. The majority, 91 per cent, were of frame construction and 56 per cent were painted. There were some trees around 88 per cent of the homes. Forty-four per cent of the homes had hedges and fifty-one per cent had flower gardens. Seventy-two per cent of the houses were separated from the barnyard by a fence but only 17 per cent of the homes had entrance walks.

As protection against rather severe winters, 85 per cent of the homes were equipped with storm windows. Seventy-two per cent of the homes were heated by a space heater in one of the rooms in addition to the kitchen stove, 24 per cent had a furnace or space heater in the basement; only four per cent were heated solely by the kitchen stove. Every home had a basement; 60 per cent had full basements and the remainder had basements which extended under only part of the house.



Sixty per cent of the houses had basements with stone or concrete walls and floors. The remaining 40 per cent had basements which were only bare excavations.

Only eight per cent of the houses comprised more than seven rooms; the average for all homes was five rooms. This allowed one or more rooms per person in 68 per cent of the families. Only thirty-one per cent of the homes had a living room in additon to a kitchen; 24 per cent had a dining room. Seventy-three per cent of the homes contained one or more clothes closets.

The interiors of the houses were, on the whole, fairly well finished. The living room walls in 87 per cent of the homes were plastered or finished with plasterboard which was painted or papered. Throughout the houses the woodwork was painted or varnished. The majority of the homes had softwood floors but 20 per cent had rough board floors. The kitchen and living room floors in 95 per cent of the homes were covered with linoleum or similar floor covering.

Only one of the 75 families had running water in their home. Eighty-seven per cent of the families carried water to the house from a well which was equipped with a hand pump. Only five per cent of the families used pumps which were operated by windmills or gasoline engines; seven per cent were still using ropes and pulleys for drawing water from their wells. Fifty-five per cent of the families had cisterns for the collection of rain water for laundry purposes.

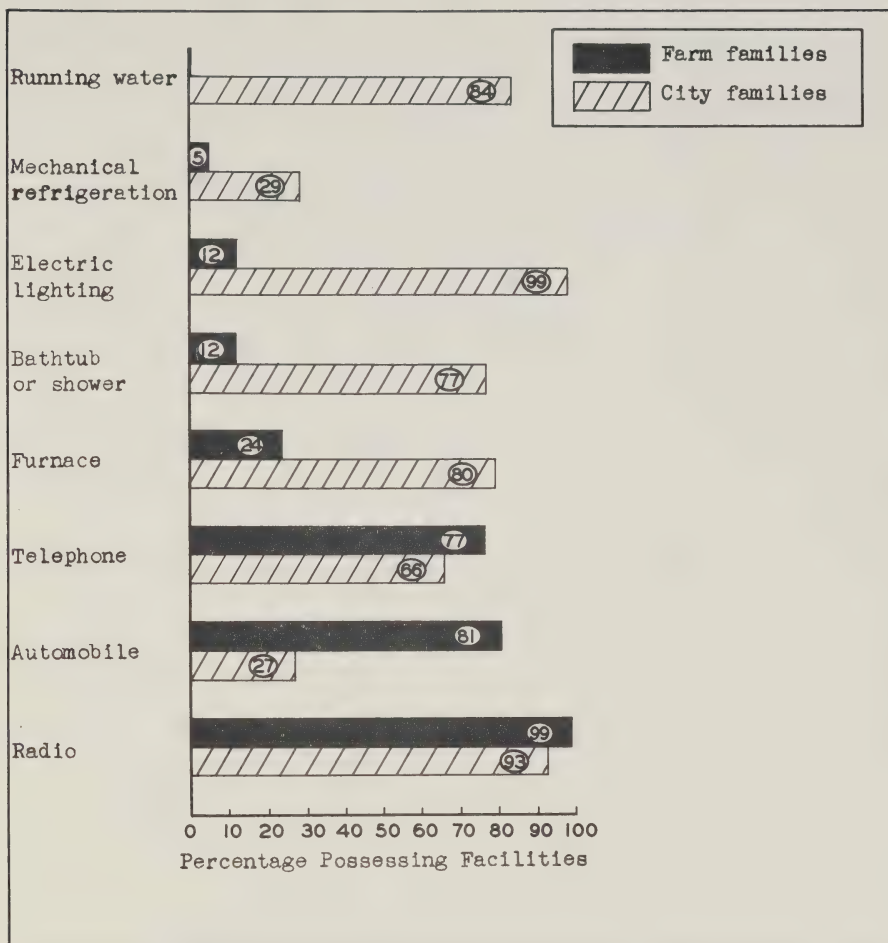


Figure 4. - Home Facilities of 75 Farm Families in  
Southeastern Saskatchewan, 1948 and of All  
Families in City of Regina,  
Saskatchewan, 1946 a/

a/ Source: Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Census  
of the Prairie Provinces, 1946.



Item	:	Level of Living Score
23. Living room floor finish:	:	
(1) Linoleum, paint, varnish, or wax	:	1
(2) All other types of finish, or unfinished	:	0
24. Living room wall finish:	:	
(1) Wallpaper, paint, or calcimine over plaster or plasterboard	:	1
(2) Other types of finish, or unfinished	:	0
25. Woodwork finish:	:	
(1) Painted or varnished throughout all or part of the house	:	1
(2) Unfinished	:	0
26. Daily or weekly newspapers:	:	
(1) Daily newspaper for six months or more, or three or more weekly newspapers	:	1
(2) Less than three weekly newspapers	:	0
27. Magazine subscriptions:	:	
(1) Two or more	:	1
(2) Less than two	:	0
Total possible score on 27 item scale	:	27





There were kitchen sinks in 61 per cent of the homes, but only 30 per cent of these sinks were equipped with drain pipes. Fifteen per cent of the homes had a bathroom, but only 12 per cent had a bathtub or shower installed; flush toilets and septic tanks were non-existent.

Gasoline or kerosene mantle lamps provided lighting in 85 per cent of the homes. Only 12 per cent of the homes had electric lighting; wick lamps were still being used exclusively in three per cent of the homes. Forty-seven per cent of the housewives had power washing machines and 38 per cent had hand-operated machines but 15 per cent were still doing the family wash by hand. Only five per cent of the families had refrigerators. Ice boxes or ice wells were used by 15 per cent of the families, but 80 per cent of the families had no refrigeration facilities. Items common to the majority of the homes were the following: radio (99 per cent), dining room table (95 per cent), sewing machine (91 per cent), dining room buffet or china cabinet (89 per cent), telephone (77 per cent), easy chair (72 per cent), and chesterfield (64 per cent).

Although these 75 families were without many facilities and conveniences, they had, on the average, more radios, telephones and automobiles than the families in the city of Regina in 1946. A comparison of the possession of certain facilities and conveniences by the families in the two areas is presented in Figure 4.

# COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES

In this area in 1948 most of the services and facilities essential to farm families were readily available. Many of them were located within the communities in which the families lived. The accessibility of various services and facilities is indicated in Table 5.

Table 5.- Average Distance of 75 Farm Homes  
From Certain Services or Facilities

Service or Facility	Average Distance
	miles
Gravel road	1.2
Grade school	2.5
Post office	3
Shipping point	5
Church	5
Community hall	5
High school	6
Theatre	7
Doctor	9
Dentist	13
Source of "good" clothes	13
Optometrist	14
Hospital	14
Cold storage	18
Swimming place	28
City of Regina	120

Fifty-three per cent of the 75 farm homes visited were located adjacent to a gravel road and only 15 per cent were more than two miles from a gravel road; the average distance of all homes from this facility was only 1.2 miles. Grade schools were an average of 2.5 miles

from the homes; only 16 per cent of the homes were more than three miles from a grade school. High schools were farther away; the average distance was six miles but 40 per cent of the homes were more than this distance from a high school. The average distance to a church was five miles but 40 per cent of the homes were more than five miles away. Although the average distance to a post office was only three miles, 25 per cent of the homes were located on a rural mail delivery route. Stores which sold "good" clothes were located at an average of 13 miles from the homes but 70 per cent of the families made these purchases through the mail order service of city department stores. The homes were, on the average, nine miles from a doctor; 24 per cent of the homes were less than five miles but 29 per cent were more than ten miles from a doctor. Hospitals were farther away; the average distance was 14 miles and 19 per cent of the homes were more than 20 miles from a hospital.

The services of a dentist were available at an average distance of 13 miles from the farm homes and the services of an optometrist were available at an average of 14 miles. Throughout this area some of the dentists and optometrists who were located in the larger centres made periodic visits to surrounding towns and villages and thereby made their services available to a greater number of people. Thirty-nine per cent of the families visited were dependent on the services of a travelling dentist and 79 per cent were dependent on the services of a travelling optometrist.

## RECREATION AND SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

During their leisure, farm families listen to their radios, read, work at their hobbies, visit with their neighbours, attend social gatherings or take part in community organizations. In this study an attempt was made to determine the extent to which the families included in the study conformed to this general pattern.

Radio Listening Habits.- The radio is an important source of entertainment and information for the farm family. Inquiry was made to determine the radio listening habits of the 74 families who had a radio in their homes. News and weather reports were listened to most frequently, then musical programmes, dramas, farm information broadcasts, comedy and variety programmes, and serials, in that order. Of the musical programmes, old time music was most popular, then modern and then classical music.

Reading Habits.- Most of the family reading was confined to farm and local newspapers. All but two families received at least one farm paper and 60 per cent received three or more. Fifty per cent of the families received a local weekly newspaper but only nine per cent received a daily newspaper. More than half, 57 per cent, of the families subscribed to at least one magazine and 29 per cent subscribed to two or more. Sixty-nine per cent of the household heads and 50 per cent of the housewives devoted four or more hours per week to reading.

Some of the families did not have any books in their homes. (Children's books were included but school books were ~~ex~~cluded). Fifty-two per cent of the families had fewer than 25 books and only 20 per cent had more than 100 books. The number of books in the homes of the 75 farm families is indicated in Table 6. The average expenditure during the year for newspapers, magazines and books was \$14 per family.

Table 6.- Number of Books in the Homes of  
75 Farm Families

Number of Books	:	Families	
	:	number	per cent
None	:	16	21
1 - 9	:	7	10
10 - 24	:	16	21
25 - 49	:	11	15
50 - 99	:	10	13
100 and over	:	15	20
Total	:	75	100

Only 23 per cent of the families were obtaining books from a library. Seventy-two per cent reported that no library facilities were available to them. The facilities for library reading as reported by the 75 families are listed in Table 7.



Table 7.- Library Facilities Reported by 75 Farm Families

Type of Library	Families Reporting	
	number	per cent
Travelling	10	13
Public	5	7
School	1	1
Church	1	1
Other <sup>a/</sup>	4	6
None available	54	72
Total	75	100

a/ Includes the Wheat Pool Library.

Hobbies.- Forty per cent of the housewives interviewed had a hobby. Some type of handwork, such as crocheting, tatting, embroidery or knitting was considered to be a hobby by most of the housewives. Gardening was also a common hobby. Only 24 per cent of the household heads had a hobby and most of these were related to some farming activity. Carpenter work or mechanics were popular hobbies and some household heads stated that hunting or fishing was their hobby. A musical instrument was played by at least one family member in 45 per cent of the homes.

Membership in Organizations.- In the majority of the 75 families, at least one family member belonged to an organization but 28 per cent of the families did not participate in any organizations. However, the 54 families who belonged were fairly active; 28 of these

families were represented in two or more organizations and many of the members of these families held executive positions. The participation of the families who were represented in one or more organizations is summarized in Table 8.

Table 8.- Number of Families in Which One or More Members Belonged to a Community Organization, Classified by Organization.

Name of Organization	Number of Families Represented	
	As Members	As Executive Officers
Co-operative Association	9	1
Saskatchewan Wheat Pool	5	-
Federation of Agriculture	1	-
Breeders' Club	2	-
Junior Farmers' Club	2	1
Fair Board	5	4
Municipal Council	3	3
Telephone Company	2	2
School Board	13	13
Home and School Club	1	1
Church Board	5	5
Church Organization	27	8
Homemakers' Club	10	6
Community Club	8	4
Lodge	10	-
Athletic	4	-
Other	9	2

The housewives were more active in these organizations than the household heads. Sixty per cent of the 75 housewives were members of an organization and 48 per cent of the husbands belonged to an organization. Other family members were not so active. In only seven per cent of the families was there a son who was a member of an organization; none of the families had daughters who belonged to an organization. Church groups

and homemakers' clubs attracted more of the housewives than any of the other women's organizations while school boards and co-operative associations were the two organizations to which the greatest number of the household heads belonged.

Other Activities.— Almost ninety per cent of the families had attended church or Sunday school during the year; 41 per cent had attended more than 20 times; 20 per cent had attended from 12 to 20 times and 27 per cent had attended less than 12 times. In most cases the whole family attended church together.

Picnics, parties, country fairs, dances, picture shows, concerts and athletic events were the most popular social outings and in most cases the whole family attended at the same time. Ninety-three per cent of the families had attended picnics and parties and 25 per cent had attended at least one fair. Dances were popular, especially with the younger family members. At least one member in 67 per cent of the families had attended dances. Eighty-one per cent of the families went to picture shows; 44 per cent had gone to picture shows more than twelve times during the year. Concerts had been attended by 50 per cent of the families. Only four per cent of the families had attended any educational meetings such as farm forums or showings of educational films. Athletic events were attended by one or more members of 28 per cent of the families, but the majority of the family members had attended these events less than twelve times during the year.

All of the families entertained visitors in their homes during the year and 80 per cent of the families had entertained visitors more than twenty times. Only one family had not visited away from home; 64 per cent of the families had visited other families more than twenty times and 32 per cent had visited between twelve and twenty times during the year.

#### ATTITUDES TOWARD FARM LIFE

Only five per cent of the 75 housewives interviewed stated that they disliked farm life and that they would rather live in a town or city. Although the remainder of the housewives preferred farm life, many of them were of the opinion that there was too much hard work associated with farm life and also too much isolation, particularly during the winter when the roads were in poor condition. Many housewives felt that farm life would be much more pleasant if their homes were provided with additional conveniences, such as electricity and plumbing. They were of the opinion, however, that there were other factors associated with farm life which compensated for these drawbacks to some extent. Among these was the belief that farm life offered greater security and independence than life in urban centres. The fact that much of the food for the family could be produced on the farm was considered to be important, especially by those housewives who had large families. Many believed that the farm was a better place than a town or a city for bringing up a family.

## SUMMARY

The 75 farm families included in the study averaged four persons per family. The majority of the household heads were of British origin; their average age was 45 years. Although the majority of the housewives and household heads had at least a grade eight education, most of the housewives had more education than their husbands.

During the twelve-month period, June 1947 to May 1948, the total living expenditures of the 75 families averaged \$2,277 per family. The farm-furnished goods and services such as, food, fuel and housing used during the year were valued at an average of \$777 per family. A direct cash outlay, therefore, was not required for one-third of their total living expenditures. Of the total cash expenditure, averaging \$1,500 per family, 24 per cent was spent on food, 17 per cent on clothing, nine per cent on household operation, ten per cent on household equipment and furnishings, 17 per cent on education, recreation, and gifts, six per cent on health, six per cent on automobile operation and 11 per cent on personal and miscellaneous items. The families who had the largest living expenditures allocated a smaller proportion to food and a slightly larger proportion to education and recreation than the families who had the smallest expenditures.

The level of living of the families was measured by a socio-economic scale. Their average level of living score was 17.8 out of a total possible score of 27.

Ninety-one per cent of the homes were of frame construction and 56 per cent were painted. Only 24 per cent of the homes had a furnace or space heater in the basement but 72 per cent had storm windows. Although every home had a basement, only 60 per cent had full basements. On the average, the homes contained five rooms and thereby provided one or more rooms per person in 68 per cent of the families.

Only one family had running water in their home. Most of the families pumped water from a well by hand and carried it to the house. Sixty-one per cent of the homes had kitchen sinks and 12 per cent had bathtubs or showers; none of the homes had flush toilets.

The majority of the homes were lighted by gasoline or kerosene mantle lamps; only 12 per cent had electric lighting. Eighty-five per cent of the housewives had power or hand-operated washing machines; the remainder were still doing the family wash by hand. Although these families were lacking many conveniences in their homes, they had, on the average, more radios, telephones, and automobiles than the families in the city of Regina in 1946.

Most of the homes were within a reasonable distance of community facilities and services. Only two homes were more than 15 miles from a gravel road; the average distance of all homes from this facility was only 1.2 miles. The average distance to a grade school was 2.5 miles. High schools were farther away; the average



distance was six miles. The homes were an average distance of five miles from a church. The average distance to a doctor was nine miles and to a hospital, 14 miles.

Most of the family reading was confined to farm and local newspapers. Sixty-nine per cent of the household heads and 50 per cent of the housewives devoted four or more hours per week to reading. Only 23 per cent of the families reported that they obtained books from a library.

In the majority of the families at least one member belonged to an organization. The housewives were more active in community organizations than their husbands.

Almost ninety per cent of the families had attended church during the year; 41 per cent had attended more than 20 times. Every family had entertained visitors and only one family had not visited away from home.

Although nearly all of the housewives stated that they would rather live on a farm than in a town or city, many of them felt that farm life would be improved greatly if their homes were provided with such facilities as electricity and plumbing. Many housewives were of the opinion that the farm was not only a better place for bringing up a family but that there was also greater security on a farm than in an urban centre.

APPENDIX

Table 1.- Items Used in Level of Living Scale

Item		Level of Living Score
1.	House construction:	
(1)	Brick, stone, frame (stucco), frame (painted or brick veneer), or frame (stained shingle)	1
(2)	All other types of construction, such as frame(unpainted or unstained shingle), or log:	0
2.	Rooms per person:	
(1)	One or more rooms per person	1
(2)	Less than one room per person	0
3.	Storm windows:	
(1)	For some or all windows	1
(2)	None	0
4.	Basement:	
(1)	Full or part basement with concrete or stone walls and floor	1
(2)	Full or part basement with earth walls and floor, or no basement	0
5.	Heating system:	
(1)	Furnace or space heater in basement	1
(2)	Space heater in room, or kitchen stove only source of heat	0
6.	Lighting:	
(1)	Electricity, or gasoline or kerosene mantle lamps	1
(2)	Wick lamps only	0
7.	Cistern	1
8.	Pumping system:	
(1)	Running water, or power or hand operated pump at well	1
(2)	No pumping system	0

Item	Level of Living Score
9. Kitchen sink	1
10. Bathroom	1
11. Washing Machine:	
(1) power operated machine	1
(2) hand operated washer, or no washing machine	0
12. Telephone	1
13. Clothes closets:	
(1) One or more	1
(2) None	0
14. Dining room (in addition to a kitchen)	1
15. Dining room table, buffet, or china cabinet	1
16. Chesterfield, davenport, or lounge	1
17. Easy chair	1
18. Bookcase or desk	1
19. Books:	
(1) Ten or more books, excluding school books	1
(2) Less than ten books	0
20. Piano	1
21. Floor construction:	
(1) Hardwood or softwood flooring throughout all or part of the house	1
(2) Rough flooring only	0
22. Kitchen floor finish:	
(1) Linoleum	1
(2) All other types of finish, or unfinished	0

Item		: Level of : Living Score
		:
23.	Living room floor finish:	:
	(1) Linoleum, paint, varnish, or wax	: 1
	(2) All other types of finish, or unfinished	: 0
		:
24.	Living room wall finish:	:
	(1) Wallpaper, paint, or calcimine over plaster or plasterboard	: 1
	(2) Other types of finish, or unfinished	: 0
		:
25.	Woodwork finish:	:
	(1) Painted or varnished throughout all or part of the house	: 1
	(2) Unfinished	: 0
		:
26.	Daily or weekly newspapers:	:
	(1) Daily newspaper for six months or more, or three or more weekly newspapers	: 1
	(2) Less than three weekly newspapers	: 0
		:
27.	Magazine subscriptions:	:
	(1) Two or more	: 1
	(2) Less than two	: 0
		:
Total possible score on 27 item scale		: 27
		:







